Kemono no Souja
The Beast Player

VOLUME 2 - CHAPTER 2, PART 3

Happy Birthday, rumpsicat!

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Those bright wings.
An unforgettable encounter.

Chapter 2 part 3
The Beast in the Heavens

獣の奏者 The Beast Player

Story UEHASHI NAHOKO Art TAKEMOTO ITOE

The long-awaited sequel, in two volumes
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By Uehashi Nahoko
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NOOO!
UNCLE JOH-UN!

NOOO!
UNCLE JOH-UN!

WHAM WHAM
UGH...
HUFF...
HUFF...
SILENCE
HUFF...
GULP

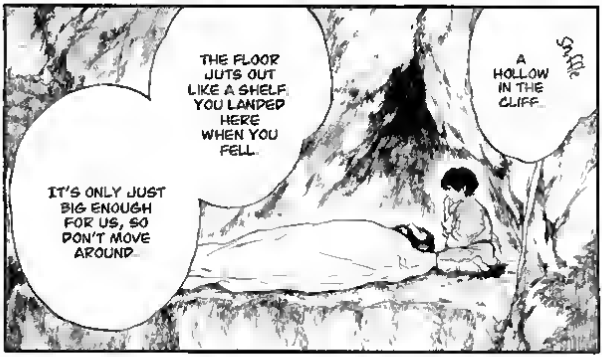
UNCLE JOH-UN!
TRUD TRUD

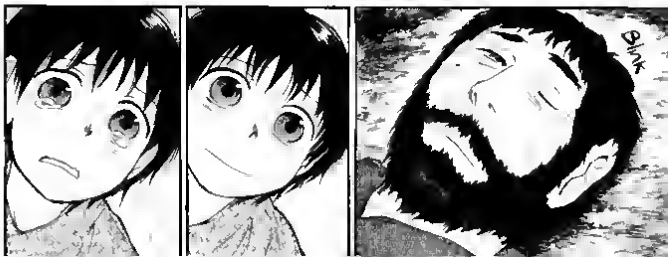
UNCLE JOH-UN...
Rise

THAT'S
HIS PACK.
!
UNCLE
JOH-UN!

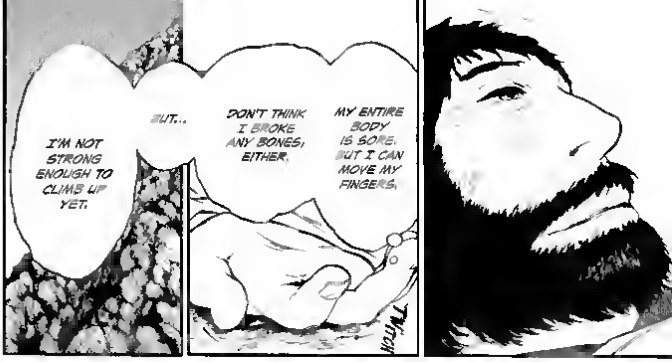
...
UH...
HUH?
UNCLE...
UNCLE JOH-UN!
...
URK...
THROB
...
NO!
GRAB

WHERE AM I?
YOUR CHIN IS SCRAPED RAW. YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH IT.
DON'T TOUCH IT!
HOLD


A HOLLOW IN THE CLIFF.
SNIFF
THE FLOOR JUTS OUT LIKE A SHELF. YOU LANDED HERE WHEN YOU FELL.
IT'S ONLY JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR US, SO DON'T MOVE AROUND.


BLINK

AHHH!!
UNCLE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UH...
UGH...
HIC
HIC
HIC
HIC
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
UN...
RUB RUB


I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO CLIMB UP YET.
BUT...
DON'T THINK I BROKE ANY BONES, EITHER.
MY ENTIRE BODY IS SORE. BUT I CAN MOVE MY FINGERS.

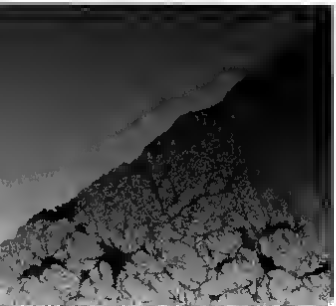
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?
I TIED IT TO MY BACK... AND CLIMBED DOWN
IT'S YOURS, UNCLE JOH-UN
IT WAS STUCK IN A TREE.
THE... BLANKET

...
I BROUGHT FOOD AND WATER, TOO.
IT WASN'T REALLY HEAVY.

SLEEP
UNDER THAT TREE
TONIGHT
AND CLIMB UP, CAREFULLY
TAKE THE BLANKET
BEFORE
THEN
IT GETS
DARK.

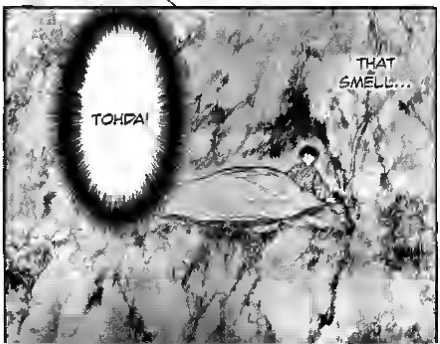
WHEN YOU ARE
SLEEP-ING?
WHAT IF YOU FALL OFF
FOR THE TWO OF US.
THIS PLACE IS TOO SMALL
YOU..
IDIOT.

NO.
I'M STAYING WITH YOU



...
THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM.
I'LL BE FINE

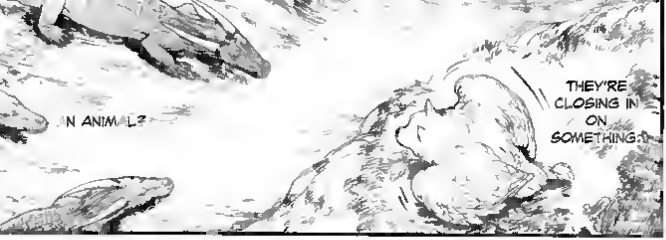
Shudder

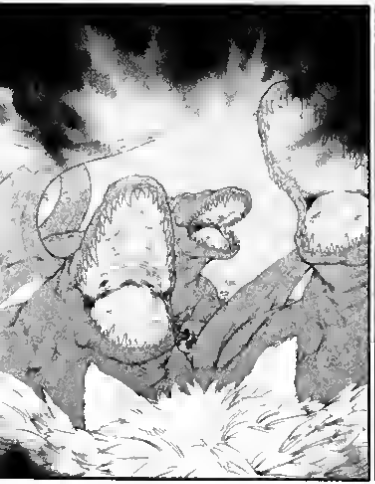

TOHDA!
THAT SMELL...

Rise

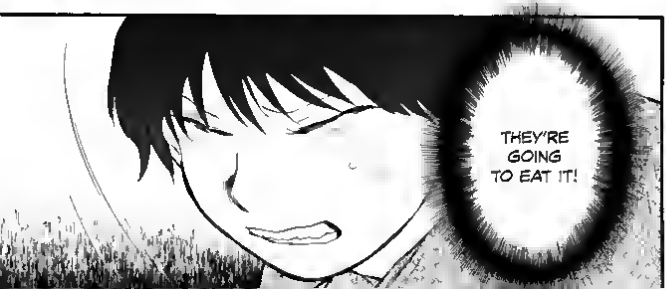
THUMP
THUMP
PEEK
THUMP
NOT THERE...
BUT...
I CAN STILL SMELL THEM.

DID THAT TREE JUST MOVE?
AH!
Slither
THREE OF THEM!
NOT A TREE! A TOHDA!


N ANIMAL?
THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON SOMETHING!



A BABY BIRD?
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THAT BIG.


THEY'RE GOING TO EAT IT!

WE

E
Flutter
EEE
Flutter
E
Flutter
EEE
FW
E
EEE
EEE
WHAT?!

CLAMP
THE TOHDA ARE WRITHING.
BECAUSE OF THAT "CRY?"

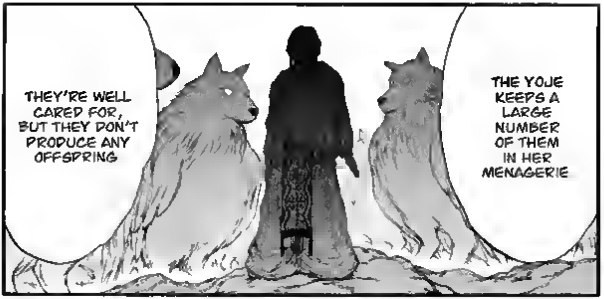
WITH NO PROBLEM!
IT CAN TEAR THROUGH A TOHDA'S HARD SCALES...
AMAZING.
...

FLING
FLING
FLING
FLAP
FLAP

FLING
FLINNG
FLING
FLINNNG

*Ruling beast.

YES.
THE HOLY BEASTS BESTOWED BY THE GODS FOR THE YOJE'S USE.
THOSE ARE—
I HEAR THEIR NUMBERS ARE DWINDLING IN THE WILD BECAUSE OF THE LOW BIRTH RATE. ONLY ONE PER LITTER.
THEY'RE RARE.

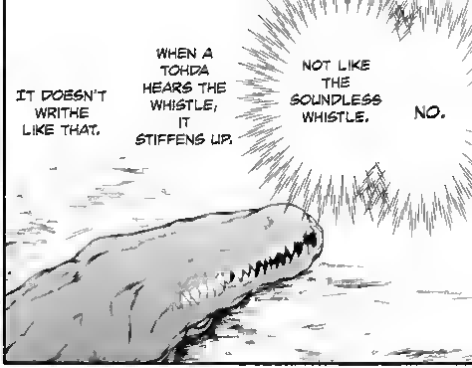

THEY'RE WELL CARED FOR, BUT THEY DON'T PRODUCE ANY OFFSPRING
THE YOJE KEEPS A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM IN HER MENAGERIE

BUT NOW THE YOUNG OF WILD OHJU ARE TAKEN THERE
WHEN THE ROYAL LINE BEGAN, THE GODS SENT OHJU TO THE ROYAL GARDEN AS A SIGN OF THEIR BLESSING

HOW DO OHJU HUNTERS TAKE THEM AWAY FROM THEIR FEARSOME MOTHERS?

GRIP
SLOWLY. BE CAREFUL.
THAT CRY SOUNDED LIKE WHISTLING.
THE WAY TOHDA HERDSMEN NUMB THE TOHDA'S SENSES WITH THE SOUNDLESS WHISTLE?
DID THE OHJU TRAP THE TOHDA WITH HER VOICE...

BACK THEN...


IT DOESN'T WRITHE LIKE THAT.
WHEN A TOHDA HEARS THE WHISTLE, IT STIFFENS UP.
NOT LIKE THE SOUNDLESS WHISTLE.
NO.

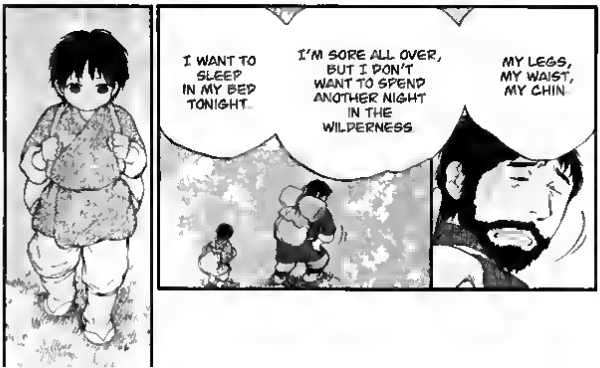
I CAN CONTROL TOHDA?
IF I CAN DO WHAT [illegible] DID,

THOSE COMPLEX NOTES ..
IF THEY'RE WORDS IN TOHDA LANGUAGE ..

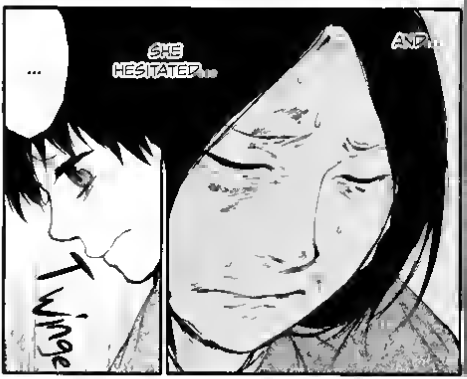
MOTHER CONTROLLED THE TOHDA BY WHISTLING.
THE OHJU MUST-HAVE DONE THAT WITH HER CRY

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
..
!
NO

DO YOUR LEGS HURT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
NO


I WANT TO SLEEP IN MY BED TONIGHT.
I'M SORE ALL OVER, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SPEND ANOTHER NIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS.
MY LEGS, MY WAIST, MY CHIN.

IN ORDER TO SAVE ME?
BUT WHY WAS IT SUCH A GREAT OFFENSE FOR HER TO CONTROL THE TOHDA?


...
SHE HESITATED...
AND...
Twinge

NEVER, EVER REPEAT WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO.

WHY COULDN'T SHE HAVE STAYED ALIVE WITH ME?
IF SHE COULD CONTROL THE TOHDA...
WHY DID SHE CHOOSE TO DIE?

WHY?
MOTHER?

TO CONTROL THE TOHDA IN ORDER TO SAVE HER BABY?
DID THAT OHJU HESITATE...